GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4284
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001
REAPPEARANCE OF SARASWATI RIVER
JAI PRAKASH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far for the Identification of Saraswati river in the States;

(b) whether any meeting was held in Kolkata in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the meeting arrived at and the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) The Ground Water Department, Government of Rajasthan in collaborationwith the Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, the Central Ground Water Board and the Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Mumbai is engaged in identifying potential pockets for ground water in ancient course of river Saraswati through proper construction of the river course through a multi- disciplinary study. The remote sensing studies and archeological remains associated with ancient Saraswati River indicatethat a major river esteeming mainly from the same sources as the present Sutlej, flowed through northern Rajasthan, Bahawalpur and Sindh to the sough-east of present course of the Sutlej and Indus. The Central Ground Water Board has carried out investigations in Kisangarh-Tanot-Tongewala area of Rajasthan using geophysical methods and have recorded fresh water at five locations out of seventeen sites located on plaeochannel. These wells were drilled in the depth range of 70 to 136 metre below ground level and yielded water from 60 to 1000 litres per minute. The study is continuing to decipher the age of water through isotopic studies.

(b) & (c) According to the information furnished by the State Governmentof West Bengal, a meeting was held at Kolkatta last year, which was taken by the Minister of State, Irrigationand Water with the public representatives. It was a general meeting regarding the scheme of resuscitation and improvement of lower Saraswati River. Various works incorporated in the scheme include re-sectioning and lining of river, widening of existing structures and construction of new structures etc.